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OLD TESTAMENT THEOLOGY; OR, THE HISTORY OF THE HEBREW RELIGION. Vol. II: The Deuteronomic Reformation in the Seventh Century B. C. By ARCHIBALD DUFF, LL.D., B.D., Professor of Old Testament Theology in the United College, Bradford Yards. London: A. & C. Black; New York: The Macmillan Co., 1900. Pp. xxvii + 512. \$4.50.

IN a former volume, published in 1891, the author dealt with the prophets of the eighth century B. C., endeavoring to place them in the true historical light, and to expound their religious teaching as parts of a growing revelation. In that volume the Pentateuch question was referred to, but postponed, on the principle, evidently, that in these studies as elsewhere it is better to follow the line of least resistance, and to begin with the problems which are simplest and arouse the least controversy. Now, however, Dr. Duff puts before the English reader his view of the analysis of the ancient documents and the reconstruction of the Hebrew history. He desires to reach a wider audience than students of scientific criticism, and to reveal to intelligent men and women who know nothing about the technicalities of criticism the fact that the new reading of the Old Testament is both interesting and helpful from the spiritual, and not merely from the scholastic, point of view. This is an intelligible position, and the work that it indicates is absolutely necessary if the Old Testament is again to be a living book to the great body of the people. And, moreover, such work can be well done only by men who possess the not too common combination of wide technical knowledge, living enthusiasm, and popular speech. From this point of view we give a hearty welcome to Dr. Duff's new volume, while at the same time we gladly acknowledge that there are many things in it which demand the careful consideration of those who are students in the more special sense.

The author's plan of study for the period embraces six sections, two of which are taken up here. These two he names: I, "The Occasion of the Reformation as Seen in Nahum and Zephaniah;" III, "The People of the Reformation as Seen in the Yahwistic and Elohist Documents Running from Genesis to Kings." The subtitle of the book, "The Deuteronomic Reformation," is therefore misleading, as our author has at present got no farther than to give his view of the preparation for that great movement. The actual reformation in the reign of Josiah, with its complex literary, historical, and theological problems (Parts II, IV-VI in the author's plan), is left over as a sufficiently

large subject for another volume. Thus, also, space is afforded for the transference to the pages of this volume of the nearly complete words of the Yahwists and Elohist. Dr. Duff gives his own translation of these documents, in whole or part, beginning with Nahum and Zephaniah, following with the ancient histories from the creation to the time of Saul; and in connection with each section an attempt is made to sum up the theological contents and to indicate the religious spirit of the writers. The question will be raised as to whether the author has not sacrificed English too much in his effort to reproduce "the very idiom and style of speech of the Hebrew documents." Dr. Duff has steeped himself in oriental literature, and possesses something of the eastern temperament. In many cases his translations are very suggestive, showing the word-play of the original and reproducing with considerable effect the simple antique style. Of course, what he gives us is very often Hebrew idiom in English words, and in some cases beauty is sacrificed to simplicity. Still it will be a useful exercise for the intelligent reader to compare these with more conventional renderings.

The treatment of proper names is a difficult matter, and we are afraid that Plishtim, Dowidh, Sha'ul, Shemu-El, Iechaq, Chilqiy, Iahu, and a host of similar forms that stalk through Dr. Duff's pages will have a disturbing effect upon the mind of the average reader. Perhaps after the old friends have become familiar in their new dress that dress may help to keep up the antique appearance of the documents. But there will always remain the two objections: first, that this painful transliteration of Hebrew forms is not necessary in the case of names which long ago passed into our common speech; and, secondly, seeing that the aim is to show that these were men who lived a life similar to ours even in different circumstances, there is no need to make these names look as foreign as possible.

While it is true that this volume, though based upon the broad results of the accepted critical analysis, makes prominent many points of detail which are still unsettled, we recognize and admire everywhere Dr. Duff's freedom and candor, his kindly toleration, his fine spirit of reverence, and his keen sympathy for varied forms of religious life. These are qualities needed by the critic as well as by the preacher, and they give an admirable tone and spirit to this latest study in Old Testament theology.

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